

ABSTRACT

Social interaction is the condition in which we meet different people with different characteristics. In social interaction we make action and reaction upon each other. We usually make attribution upon people or infer about their social or psychological background based on any available information provided by them. Verbal messages are often become valuable sources of what sort of person we deal with. But, the verbal channel of communication does not stand alone. It is accompanied by nonverbal channel of communication which has characteristics of its own and which can accent, alter, amplify, modify or even contradict verbal meanings. Thus, when words only give little information about a person, or people try to search for agreement upon verbal meanings, they will depend on nonverbal cues.

This study attempts to find out how such nonverbal cues as paralinguistic features of speech become valuable information about an individual psychological background. In particular, the study attempts to know whether individual differences in the degree of loudness reflect his or her degree of extravertness-introvertness quality. In short, it tries to find out whether a relationship exist between loudness and extravertness-introvertness. The relationship is inferred from listeners' ratings upon speakers' extravertness-introvertness based on their loudness of speaking. A correlation test is used to figure out the extent of the relationship.

The result of the study shows that although listeners' judgements upon speakers' extravertness-introvertness based on loudness only present a small accuracy when related to the speakers' own scores on EPQ test for extravertness-introvertness, the correlation test indicates a significant relationship between loudness and extravertness-introvertness. It means that the relationship rarely occurs by chance. Hence, we may conclude that loudness as one aspect of paralinguistic features of speech can become a marker for an individual psychological background, in this case, extravertness-introvertness.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION